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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/517,089	12/06/2004	Thomas Anthony Stahl	PU020274	1127
7590 Joseph S Tripoli Thomson Licensing Inc PO Box 5312 Princeton, NJ 08543-5312		03/21/2007	EXAMINER SALAD, ABDULLAHI ELMU	
			ART UNIT 2157	PAPER NUMBER
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE		
3 MONTHS	03/21/2007	PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/517,089	STAHL ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Salad E. Abdullahi	<b>Art Unit</b> 2157	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### **Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 December 2004.

2a)  This action is **FINAL**.                            2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## **Disposition of Claims**

4)  Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6)  Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.

7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All b)  Some \* c)  None of:  
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/29/07/12/6/04.  
4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.  
5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application  
6)  Other: \_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

1. This application has been reviewed. Original claims 1-18 are pending. The rejection cited stated below.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art [hereinafter AAPA] In view of May et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0252688[hereinafter May].

As per claim 1, and 11AAPA discloses In a device attached to a network, a method for controlling distribution of data from the device to another device via the network, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a digital signal representative of program content, (see paragraphs 0005-0006);

determining whether a destination device to which the digital signal is to be distributed is outside the network (see paragraphs 0005-0006);

determining whether the authorization field is indicative of the first or second transport mode; and

inhibiting transmission of the digital signal in response to determining that the authorization field is indicative external network and the destination device is outside the network (0006), otherwise, transmitting the digital signal to the destination device AAPA is silent regarding: the digital signal having an authorization field indicative of a first transport mode authorizing distribution of the digital signal outside the network, and of a second transport mode inhibiting distribution of the digital signal outside the network.

May discloses Routing packets in frame-based data communication networks, includes providing the data packets with multiple headers, each of the multiple headers having one of the destination addresses wherein the digital signal having an authorization field indicative of a first transport mode authorizing distribution of the digital signal outside the network, and of a second transport mode inhibiting distribution of the digital signal outside the network (i.e., including the frame a field that identifies digital signal/frame delivery requirement such as an authorization field which indicated which interface local or external interface to deliver the digital signal or the frame (see paragraph 0080-0082, 0097-0098). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the to utilize the digital delivery mechanism such as taught by May, thus enabling only the frames that are addressed to the local interface nodes are delivered to authorized destination in the local interface, thereby improving the utilization of the existing network infrastructure.

As per claims 2-8, and 12-18 May discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the first determining step comprises the steps of: receiving location information of a router on the network that is used for routing data to devices outside the network; receiving destination data indicative of location information associated with a destination device to which the program content is to be distributed; and determining whether the destination device is outside the network by determining whether the destination data corresponds to the location information of the router (see paragraph 0080-0082, 0097-0098).

***Conclusion***

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Salad E Abdullahi whose telephone number is 571-272-4009. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

5. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Abdullahi Salad  
3/17/2007

ABDULLAHI SALAD  
PRIMARY EXAMINER